

Ipomoea aquatica

water spinach

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Appearance: Herbaceous trailing vine with milky sap. Stems hollow, rooting at nodes, floating in aquatic situations.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, with glabrous petioles 3-14 cm (1-6 in) long; blades generally arrowhead shaped but variable, glabrous or rarely pilose, to 17 cm (7 in) long, with tips pointed; blades held above water when stems floating.

Flowers: Showy, funnellform like morning glory blooms, solitary or in few-flowered clusters at leaf axils; petals white or pink-lilac.

Fruit: An oval or spherical capsule, woody at maturity, about 1 cm (1/2 in) wide, holding 1-4 grayish seeds, these often short, hairy.

Ecological threat:

Forms dense floating mats of intertwined stems over water surfaces, shading out native submersed plants and competing with native emergents. FLEPPC Category I



Distribution: C, SW

Field Notations

IPOMAQUA/IPAQ

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>